

## Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SCA-01 VO-03 M-03 A-01

H-02 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAI-01 PPT-02

SSO-00 INRE-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 RSR-01 /109 W  
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FM USMISSION NATO

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2391

E. O. 11652: GDS 12/31/79

TAGS: PFOR, CPAS, LY

SUBJECT: POLADS DISCUSSION OF LIBYAN PASSPORT PROBLEM

REF: ( A ) STATE 91657; ( B ) TRIPOLI 624; ( C ) TRIPOLI 635

BEGIN SUMMARY: POLADS MAY 15 DISCUSSED MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON PASSPORTS AND IN PARTICULAR RESULTS OF CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING DESCRIBED REFS B AND C. UK AND A NUMBER OF OTHER ALLIES STATED THEY CANNOT SUPPORT PROPOSAL RESULTING FROM MAY 10 MEETING OF NATO COMS. POLADS WILL CONTINUE DISCUSSION NEXT WEEK ON BASIS OF FURTHER GUIDANCE AND CLARIFICATION, IF ANY, IN PASSPORT SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

1. ITALIAN REP SUMMARIZED SITUATION, AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, BY  
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REPORTING THAT THERE REMAINS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AS TO MANNER IN WHICH LIBYANS WILL APPLY PASSPORT REGULATIONS, ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS THAT IN MANY RESPECTS SITUATION IS RETURNING TO THAT PRIOR TO APRIL 28. IT APPARENT, AS WELL, THAT LIBYANS ARE NO

LONGER INTERESTED IN A COMPROMISE WHEREBY A SEPARATE SHEET CONTAINING DATA IN ARABIC WOULD BE INSERTED IN NON- LIBYAN PASSPORTS. INSTEAD, LIBYANS WANT A STAMP TO BE ADDED TO THE PASSPORT ITSELF, AT LEAST AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE. WITH RESPECT TO SUCH MEASURE, ITALIAN REP SAID THAT HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO GO ALONG WITH MAJORITY. TURKISH REP COULD ACCEPT THIS ARRANGEMENT AS WELL IF IT IS APPLIED ON THE BASIS OF STRICT RECIPROCITY, MEANING THAT LIBYANS ENTERING TURKEY WILL POSSESS A TURKISH LANGUAGE STAMP IN THEIR PASSPORTS.

2. FRG REP REPORTED ON MAY 10 MEETING OF NAC AMBASSADORS ( REF B) AND ON AGREEMENT REACHED IN TRIPOLI TO RECOMMEND TO RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS THAT ARABIC LANGUAGE STAMP BE USED IN PASSPORTS UNDER RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS. BOTH FRG AND US REPS DESCRIBED SUBSEQUENT COM MEETING TO HEAR REPORT BY SAUDI ARABIAN DEAN ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER OBEIDI ( REF C).

3. RESPONDING TO MAY 10 RECOMMENDATION BY NATO AMBASSADORS, UK REP SAID LONDON CANNOT AGREE AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE TO ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH CALLS FOR OFFICIAL ARABIC LANGUAGE STAMP TO BE PLACED BY HMG IN UK PASSPORTS OR EVEN ON SEPARATE SHEET. FURTHERMORE, HE NOTED ARRANGEMENT ON THAT BASIS MIGHT BE SHORT LIVED BECAUSE LIBYANS DO NOT SEEM TO BE ABLE TO MAKE UP THEIR MINDS ON WHAT THEY WANT. UK FEELS THAT THE BEST POLICY WOULD BE TO HOLD OUT UNTIL AT LEAST SEPTEMBER 1 AND LIBYA' S UNION WITH EGYPT BECAUSE EGYPT IS NOT LIKELY TO ADOPT LIBYAN PASSPORT POLICY. GIVEN APPARENT LIBYAN REVERSION TO PRE- APRIL 28 REGULATIONS, DIPLOMATS ARE LIKELY TO BE THE ONES TO SUFFER MOST FROM A DECISION TO HOLD OUT UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1 BUT UK IS WILLING TO PAY THAT PRICE.

4. DUTCH REP SAID THAT THE HAGUE AGREES WITH THE UK. AT ONE TIME NETHERLANDS THOUGHT OF ADDING A SEPARATE SHEET IN ARABIC BUT NOW IS COMPLETELY AGAINST USE OF OFFICIAL STAMP IN PASSPORT OR ON A SEPARATE SHEET. BELGIUM ALSO SUPPORTED UK. CANADA AND DENMARK NOTED THAT THEY HAVE NO REP RESIDENT IN TRIPOLI WHO COULD PARTICIPATE IN NATO COM MEETING. IN ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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EVENT, NEITHER GOVERNMENT COULD AGREE TO USE OF RUBBER STAMP. FRG REP SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD HIS GOVERNMENTS POSITION REMAINED THE SAME: THAT IT WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO HAVE ARABIC LANGUAGE STAMP INTRODUCED INTO PASSPORTS. GREEK REP SAID THAT HE ALSO WAS INSTRUCTED TO SUPPORT POSITION ADVOCATED BY UK.

5. FRENCH REP SAID HE NOW HAD SOME GUIDANCE FROM PARIS BUT IT DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT LATEST MEETINGS IN TRIPOLI. HE SAID FRANCE HAD CONTEMPLATED A TEMPORARY MEASURE SUCH AS INSERTING A SEPARATE SHEET IN FRENCH PASSPORTS, BUT THAT, APPARENTLY, IS NO LONGER SUFFICIENT FOR LIBYA. FRENCH ARE TRYING TO FIND ANOTHER SOLUTION WHICH WOULD BE TEMPORARY BUT EFFECTIVE AND WHICH PRESERVES POSITION OF PRINCIPLES-- THAT PASSPORTS SHOULD

BE PRINTED IN LANGUAGE OF ISSUING COUNTRY AND ADDITIONALLY IN EITHER FRENCH OR ENGLISH. FRANCE ALSO HAS NOT ABANDONED ITS HOPE IN THE LONGER RUN OF BRINGING LIBYA TO CONFORM TO INTERNATIONAL NORMS. FRENCH REP INDICATED THAT PARIS WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO PLACE ARABIC LANGUAGE STAMP IN PASSPORTS.

6. CHAIRMAN CONCLUDED SESSION BY SUGGESTING THAT DISCUSSION BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK ON THE BASIS OF FURTHER INSTRUCTINS, AND WHATEVER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

7. COMMENT: JUDGING BY COMMENTS AT POLADS MEETING, RECOMMENDATION DEVELOPED BY COMS ON MAY 10 WILL NOT RPT NOT BE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO NATO GOVERNMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, WE DO BELIEVE THAT IT IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR NATO GOVERNMENTS TO MAINTAIN COMMON POLICY WITH RESPECT TO LIBYA EVEN IF FRENCH INEVITABLY GO THEIR OWN WAY. AT THIS POINT IT LOOKS AS IF UK POSITION, WHICH IS BASICALLY ONE OF MAINTAINING STATUS QUO IN HOPES THAT LIBYA WILL CHANGE ITS POLICY AS A CONSEQUENCE OF UNION WITH EGYPT, WILL COMMAND GREATEST SUPPORT. FOR NEXT POLADS MEETING WE WOULD WELCOME DEPARTMENTS COMMENTS ON UK ANALYSIS AND SUGGESTION. IN ADDITION, IT MAY ALSO BE USEFUL TO REFLOW SOME OLD GROUND AND SEE WHETHER SOME KIND OF COUNTERMEASURE CAN BE AGREED UPON BY THE ALLIES TO BE APPLIED IN A UNIFORM FASHION WITH RESPECT TO LIBYA. MCAULIFFE

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BRUSSELS  
BONN  
LONDON  
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